

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated April 27, 2004 and the Advisory Action dated August 16, 2004. Upon entry of this Amendment, new claims 23-30 will be pending in this application. Claims 2-16 and 18-21 are canceled by this Amendment. (Claim 1 was canceled by Applicants' July 27, 2004 Response, and also claims 2-4 and 6 were amended thereby.) The newly added claims are fully supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

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As stated in the previous Amendment, Applicants maintain that the language used in the specification complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The phrase "in a surely held condition without trembling" is respectively asserted to be in "full, concise, and exact terms." Applicants request the Examiner to clarify why the phrase would not be considered to include "full, concise, and exact terms." Applicants assert that a person ordinarily skilled in the art would understand the metes and bounds of the referenced phrase.

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Claims 2-16, and 18-21 are rejected as obvious in view of Bacchi (US 6,281,516), Nering (6,082,951), and EP 827185. Applicants note claims 2-16 and 18-21 are canceled by this Amendment. However, insofar as this rejection is deemed applicable to the new claims, Applicants make the following remarks.

Independent claim 23 (from which claims 24-26 depend) concerns an attaching and removing unit of a lid for a wafer carrier. The unit includes a pushing member for giving (applying) a driving force to the lid in a direction of moving the lid away from the lid holding plate against the engagement of the key element and the keyhole. In contrast, the device of Bacchi uses a coil spring (reference 192 of Fig. 10) having a driving force

direction that is opposite to that of the pushing member of the present invention. In other words, the coil spring does not provide a driving force to the box door in a direction that moves the box door away from the port door. Neither Nering nor EP 827185 remedies this deficiency of Bacchi. Hence, the combined teachings of Bacchi, Nering, and EP 827185 can not teach or fairly suggest every feature of independent claim 23.

Applicants now discuss independent claim 27 (from which claims 28-30 depend). Independent claim 27 also concerns an attaching and removing unit of a lid for a wafer carrier. The unit of claim 27 includes a biasing member for biasing the lid holding plate in a direction of pushing the lid. None of the three cited patents teaches or fairly suggests the above described biasing member feature of claim 27. Hence, the asserted combination of Bacchi, Nering, and EP 827185 also fails to teach or fairly suggest every feature of independent claim 27.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejection in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 02-4300; Order No. 033082.113.

Respectfully submitted,

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